

01MRA0170: 60,130-1034

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-11, 13 and 15 are objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 2 and 15 in independent form. Claim 3-11 and 13 all depend from allowable claim 2 and are also allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 12, 14 and 21 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by *Struss, et al.* (United States Patent No. 6,149,166). *Struss* does not disclose a vehicle suspension system including a clutch device having clutch dampers connectable to a vehicle frame and bar dampers of a stabilizer bar that move relative to each other. *Struss* teaches an anti-roll bar 30 having first and second disc sections 74 and 76 with respective disc members 80 and 84 (column 2, lines 41-51). The viscosity of fluid surrounding the disc members 80 and 84 changes to vary the stiffness of the anti-roll bar 30. The Examiner states that claims 1, 12, 14, & 21 are anticipated by *Struss*. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant's claims are not anticipated by *Struss*. In the claimed invention, the clutch dampers are connectable to a vehicle frame, and the bar dampers are part of the stabilizer bar. In *Struss*, all the disc members are connected to the anti-roll bar and none of the disc members are connectable to a vehicle frame as in the claimed invention. *Struss* does not disclose that any of the disc members 80 and 84 are connectable to a vehicle frame and applicant's claims are not anticipated by *Struss*.

*Struss* also does not disclose clutch dampers and bar dampers which move relative to each other to vary the stiffness of a stabilizer bar. *Struss* discloses fluid surrounding the disc members 80 and 84 that changes viscosity to vary the stiffness of the anti-roll bar 30. The claims require that the clutch dampers and the bar dampers move relative to each other to vary the stiffness of the stabilizer bar. The disc members 80 and 84 of *Struss* do not move relative to each other, but rather a fluid changes viscosity to vary the anti-roll bar 30 stiffness. Applicant's claims are not anticipated by *Struss*.

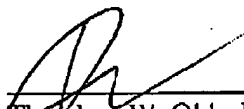
Thus, Claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to

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charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., in the amount of \$132.00 for two additional independent claims. No additional fees are due. The Commission is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 872-9306, on December 22, 2003.

  
Laura Combs

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